

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9, and 14-21 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 10-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Claims 1, 5, 9, 18, and 20 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks included herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kawaoka* (JP 9-149352) in view of *Funazaki* (USP 5,561,531) in view of Japan Electronic Industry Development Association Standard; “Digital Still Camera Image file Format Standard (exchangeable image file format for digital still camera EXIF) version 2.1” 1998; pages 1, 3, 8 (hereinafter “JEIDA”); and rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kawaoka* in view of *Funazaki* and JEIDA and further in view of *Fukushima* (USP 6,253,023). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner’s rejection but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Kawaoka/Funazaki/JEIDA

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, an image conversion system comprising a format conversion means which converts a recording format of the digital image signal into a pre-determined format for recording a digital image signal on a recording medium which can be loaded in a digital camera separate from the digital image generation means. One skilled in the art can appreciate that a recording format defines not only image data format and tag information but also information directed to a directory structure, directory names, and file names. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the recording format of the present invention is not taught or suggested by the format disclosed in *Kawaoka* or *Funazaki* which includes only image data format and tag information.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the format conversion means as set forth in amended claim 1. As such, Applicant maintains that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the combination of the references as cited by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 15 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 9 contain elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 as thus claims 5 and 9, together with claims dependent thereon, are patentable over the references as cited for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

By this Amendment, Applicant has added new claims 18-21 for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant submits that claim 18 conforms to a corresponding Japanese patent application which was considered to be allowable by the Japanese Patent Office. Claim 20 recites elements similar to those as set forth in claim 18 and thus claim 20 is allowable.

Request for Interview

Applicant is submitted concurrently herewith a Request for Interview. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to conduct an Interview prior to formal consideration of the amendments and remarks herein on the record.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinnet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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